

Though American arms had lost only one battle, the war itself was lost. Nearly all of us were home by that terrible day in 1975. Choked with emotion, I ran to my church for comfort and found it empty and locked. I realized I would have to keep my sorrow to myself for years to come and that is exactly what happened.

Over 58,000 American men and women—more people than live in Whitley County—died. Thousands more have died since from causes born in the war. Our friends from Australia, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines lost over 6,000 more, and the Army of South Viet Nam's losses were nearly a quarter of a million. Future generations will ask to what avail, since Viet Nam became one more brutal communist dictatorship. Here is the answer I like: There are some who say that Viet Nam made WW III unnecessary. That so many brave men could stand so firmly against a bully 9,000 miles away deeply impressed that bully.

CONGRATULATING DOUGLAS M. WAGONER, SR., ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Douglas M. Wagoner, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of service to the Northern Virginia community and to our Nation.

Mr. Wagoner began his business, Wagoner Welding Supply, 40 years ago. The company has been integral in servicing the growing construction needs of the Northern Virginia area. Wagoner Welding Supply has held a prominent role and an outstanding service record in the construction community as it has serviced many of the area company's welding needs and has had a working relationship with most of the construction companies in the area. Wagoner Welding Supply has also served the White House Engineering office for 35 years and has been recognized for outstanding service. The White House Engineers are responsible for the upkeep of the residence and Executive Office Buildings, and demand nothing short of outstanding service which Mr. Wagoner's company has provided for over three decades. Servicing the White House entails being on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and Wagoner Welding Supply has always answered that call.

As a long time resident of Alexandria, Virginia, Mr. Wagoner has made time to service his community by belonging to organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria Art League, and the Knights of Columbus. Now in retirement, Mr. Wagoner will certainly look forward to some additional leisure time and spending time with his granddaughters Lydia and Madeline.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Douglas M. Wagoner, Sr., and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES RECKNER

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. James Reckner, Director of the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University.

Dr. Reckner, a combat veteran who served two tours in Vietnam, is a dedicated historian who has created an internationally renowned program dedicated to all aspects of the Vietnam War. The main focus at the Vietnam Center has been the Virtual Vietnam Archive. Second only to the U.S. National Archives, Texas Tech University is home to one of the most complete collections of artifacts related to America's involvement in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Reckner's vision began in 1989 when he asked his freshman history class to name a general from the Vietnam War. He was amazed to discover that only 1 student out of 100 knew the name of General William C. Westmoreland, the commander of American military operations during the Vietnam War.

As a result, Dr. Reckner organized a meeting with a group of West Texas veterans to talk about what steps could be taken to preserve the stories, information, and lessons from the Vietnam conflict and pass them on to future generations. It was then that the Texas Tech Vietnam Center was born.

For 15 years, dedicated veterans, scholars and students have been collecting and preserving materials relating to the American Vietnam experience. The Virtual Vietnam Archive now contains more than 2 million pages of material. Earlier this year, James Harton, a Rating Specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs sent a letter to U.S. Representative STEVEN BUYER, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, outlining the successes of the archive. Mr. Harton wrote, "Because of the documents provided by Texas Tech, I am often able to resolve a veteran's claim within fifteen minutes as opposed to the request sent to the USASCURR." Often times requests sent to the U.S. Armed Services Center for Unit Record Research take 6 to 12 months for a reply. With the help of Texas Tech's virtual archive, Mr. Harton has been able to resolve over 500 veteran's claims in the past four years.

America's men and women in the military give their time, and in many cases life and limb, to serve our country. Dr. Reckner served his country admirably during the Vietnam War. Today, he continues to serve this country and the memory of a significant time in American history. Thanks to his efforts, the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University will assist future generations in remembering the Vietnam experience.

It is our duty to ensure that our children and grandchildren never forget our country's finest heroes and always know of their sacrifices. Their sacrifices and those of our military families serve as freedom's foundation. Without the brave efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and their families, our country would not stand so boldly, shine so brightly, and live so freely.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere concern with the funding level for nuclear physics programs in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act Conference Report for FY2006.

While the Office of Science does receive an increase of \$32.8 million over the fiscal year 2005 level, the nuclear physics programs are actually cut 8.4 percent below fiscal year 2005 levels. The Jefferson Lab in my district in Newport News, VA, is one of the basic research labs that would be negatively impacted by this funding level.

Just last month the National Academy of Sciences issued a report titled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." That report underscored that the nation's economic health is seriously at risk without a sustained investment in science. The report noted that in Germany, 36 percent of undergraduates receive their degrees in science and engineering. In China the figure is 59 percent, and in Japan 66 percent. In the United States the corresponding figure is 32 percent. It seems to me that this is a time the nation needs to invest in science, not cut science programs.

Mr. Speaker, no Member is more concerned about trimming our budget than I am, but we cannot afford to cut programs like nuclear physics, that are the key to our country's success, both now and in the future. I wish to state for the record that I am extremely disappointed with the cuts to nuclear physics programs, and I will continue to work vigilantly in the future for this critical funding.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ACT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, protecting our Nation's natural resources is one of the greatest gifts that we can give to future generations. When one thinks of our national resources, images of Yellowstone National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, or the Grand Canyon National Park often come to mind. However, in recent years, these areas have all experienced the devastating effects of invasive plant species such as salt cedar, or tamarisk.

This is why I rise today to announce the introduction of the Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act.

Invasive plant species know no boundaries. According to the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service currently manages 388 units, comprised of 84.4 million acres of land throughout the United States. Of these units, 196 have been cited as having "serious problems" due to invasive plant species.

Today, I am introducing the Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act.